2008 DISPATCHERS' WORKSHOP – SEDONA, AZ

Day 1 - Tuesday, January 29, 2008:

Welcome by Joe Stringer (Deputy Forest Supervisor) of Coconino National Forest

SWCC Update by Kenan Jaycox:

- Dispatch Center Introductions.
- Sharing of resources went very well.
- Arizona was busy with heavy I/A, successful coordination of resources.
- **Neighborhood agreement** – movement of resources between centers anytime in PL 1,2,3 – on any type of resources. *Some group discussions at length on national resources.* SWCC still needed to be notified, at PL3- started putting a stop to it. Limitation – how do we account for T-1 fire, ordered T-1 team with only 2 people doing expanded and no time to shop orders to neighbors? Potential of the activity, not tied to PL. *Some group discussions on how SWCC would know if orders have been shopped around.* Document if shopped with neighbor before sending the order to SWCC.
- **Subordinate vs. Support request.** Subordinate request is used when rostering for crews such as T-1 & 2 teams, handcrews, engine crews, and exclusive use helicopters, etc. Support request is used when it applies to supplies and/or equipment such as a T-2 crew is ordered, need to order a bus and sack lunches for crew, the bus and sack lunches would be support request. CWN helicopter, attach overhead support requests for modules. From Frank Bedonie, on Presuppression orders – subordinate requests, can place directly with filling unit, don't need to go through SWCC. There's now a Interagency Standard of Resource Ordering Guide, a business process of the national standard, available on the ROSS home page called the Interagency Standards for the ROSS Operations Guide (ISROG). Website: www.nifc.gov/nicc/predictive/ISROG.pdf
- **Overhead & Incident Management Team:** Management of T-1 teams done by SWCG, T-2 teams were managed by local units in the past. Pros and cons were discussed and decision made by SWCG to take over management of T-2 teams. SWCC took over the dispatching of all IMT orders. Nancy Moore at SWCC will be coordinating the team rosters. Team members on the rosters need to update their IQCS and make available locally in ROSS. March 15th, first T-2 team to become available. Pre-orders, need to get with each team. Current host of T-2 teams need to give access to SWCC. SWCC will need to clean up the roster and pre-orders. Tony Percival (AD) wanted to know if the team could prioritize the pre-orders – Ken will take up with the teams, short pre-order vs long pre-order. Closest forces of IMT: if home team is available-home team will be used, a need for another team, will go to the rotation. IMETs order through SWCC, made sure rental car, cell phone, and laptops are authorized, otherwise it will slow down the order.
- **EDSDs on IMT:** Center Managers will formalize the process of having an EDSD on IMTs. Potential of EDSD to go out to fire camp to work with the teams to generate ROSS reports, interface with supplies/ORDM if IC wants to do it. Not

to assign an EDSD to a team, just a couple of assignment per year. The initial thought was to have the EDSD working with ORDM. The EDSD will have a user account with hosting unit, create the orders but not placing the orders…. Role issues. Someone brought up the subject of maybe having the RESL and/or ORDM come into expanded to get a general idea of what we do and why we ask for specific information.

- **Crews:** Had issues with crew configuration last year, some crews were sent home from out of GACC assignment. T-2 I/A – crew configuration of CRWB, 3 ICT5, 3 Sawyers (min. FALA), 13 FFT2s. T-2 – crew configuration of CRWB, 3 FFT1s, 16 FFT2s. Camp Crew falls into the moderate WCT.
- **MOB Centers:** SWCG tasked a group to study the mobilization centers. Williams Gateway (Tonto) – dilemma with funding, other agencies unable to supplement Forest Service to build, extent of services for mob center still unknown as well as the Airtanker Base. Albuquerque is good for another 4 years, currently getting some things fixed from the inspections.
- A76 language, report hasn't been to executive team. Competitive sourcing, improving ways of doing business-efficiencies.

NICC Update by Judy Dunnam:
See Power point presentation.

PREDICTIVE SERVICES/WIMS by Chuck Maxwell
Chuck pointed out the various SWCC websites available and explained the information contained in the various websites.
- Fire Weather AOP readily available online.
- From Biancia Juganaru of SWCC, dispatch issues from last year: IMET & ATMU (hardly used anymore) order needs to come from FBAN or IMET through SWCC.
- Portable RAWS mainly used for RX or WFU.
- Order FIRERAWS – portable RAWS to support wildfires.
- Spot weather forecasts – National Weather would like feedback.
- See power point

Fire Applications Helpdesk by Faye Chandler

See power point presentation

CAT Presentation by Bianca Juganaru
Presentation on power point.
- CAT - Communications Advance Team.
- Items that need to be included when ordering a 4390, Radio kit are:
  - Billing address of hosting unit
  - Shipping address or charter flight with airport & FBO
  - Ground contact name and number.

INTELL / SWCC WEBSITE UPDATE by Jay Ellington

Jay showed the various update on the SWCC website and also explained its' content such SWA News; SWCG website; Aviation; Incident Business Management Famweb/209/Sitreporting updates/changes

Day 2 - Tuesday, January 30, 2008:

SMOKE JUMPERS by Sara Doering and Eric Walker

Currently trying to acquire the powerpoint and DVD.

BIA by Leon W. Ben, Jr.
- Three Regional Offices in the Southwest:
  - Southwest
  - Navajo
  - Western - covers 9 agencies in Arizona; 5 agencies in Southern Nevada and Utah
    - Mr. Ben is the Regional Fire Management Officer for the Western Region.
- Three-tier dispatch. BIA is not mandated to go three tier but some agencies are already there.
  - San Carlos Agency and Pima Agency combined with Phoenix Interagency Dispatch Center
  - Colorado River Agency and Fort Yuma Agency which consists of 5 tribes also combined with Arizona Interagency Dispatch Center
  - Fort Apache Agency is working with ASF to go interagency with Show Low Dispatch Center.
- BIA will be losing 2 T-1 crews, no decision yet as to which crews.
- Funding is also declining for BIA. We're being asked to do more with less.
- Workforce consists of a lot of folks that are up for retirement. Recently, the Director of BIA, Jerry Gidner, made a visit to Western Regional Office and asked everyone to stand up, employees sat down according to retirement plan, only a few were left standing. A lot of knowledge is going out the door.

CACHE UPDATE by Ed Plapp

Presentation was all on power point.
- Will be going to CBS – Cache Billing System.
- ICBS to ROSS being in March 2008, Version 2.8
- Ed is retiring.

ROSS by Kenan Jaycox – Beth GreyCloud could not show up so Ken filled in.

The whole presentation was on power point, Beth e-mailed to Ken.
- ROSS update, Version 2.8, June 2008, within the fire season, estimate 10-12 hour downtime
- Future release: Supply order placed in ROSS goes directly to Cache - ICBS to ROSS with a filled order in version 2.9

- ICBS database, record of catalog records, currently do not receive all orders in ROSS
- IQCS – interface live
- Organization module change - cleaned up in ROSS – deleted 20-30 dispatch offices in ROSS. When opening up an Expanded, interface with initial attack.
- Availability Issue – An individual has a number of quals. and only wants to go out as one or few specific positions. A group is put together to work on issues of toggling off quals.
- UTF – approach a way to display a UTF list nationally. Issue letters to have UTF posted nationally.
- ROSS has a lot more Go To buttons from notification, easier to navigate.
- Redesign of Resource Order calculations – on Preposition, will retain available status although they're assigned to Preposition.
- Tactical Aviation – Span of Control- more visibility at GACC/NICC on aircraft possibly being available to divert an aircraft. SWCC will need to coordinate what should be and shouldn't be. Any questions, can contact Dolores Garcia at SWCC – Aircraft Desk.

ROSS Data Change Board by Chuck Holt
Chuck talked about his experience with the Change Board. If there is something in ROSS that isn't working and would like to change or if there is anything that you think might be useful in ROSS, contact the ROSS Data Change Board, how else can we get changes??

T-1 SWA IMT IC by Jeff Whitney
- Roster for both teams have old members. They're finding new blood.
- SWCG has some new faces and is doing a very good job they're committed and smart in a high political environment.
- Team member selection: Nominations sent in, everyone got elected for something. Team selection worked out well, everyone was on the same page.
- Dealing with cost constraint. Their average last 10 years, from 17% to 52% to fire. Cost efficient, think about it.
- Primary position on the roster, inform team member before killing the order.
- Complacent with automation, self status. In the old days, it went from SWCC, started working the phone, networking.
- Name Request / Name Suggest – deflating the process of the team's request from NICC. They do their homework.
- Resource availability continues to be challenging. A lot of helicopters found work in other areas.
- Retention/Pay Scale, high cost of living in California, we're not for from it, will see some retention issues. Appropriate management response, really isn't about change.
- Roster – don't think that all team members will be going. General roster, doing best to honor request such as the Florida order requesting 30 people. Open communication between team and GACC. Centralization with Finance group.

- NIMO – 2 new Teams, one in Phoenix and Portland.
- OSHA will be visiting fire camps this year, figure a way at making a positive experience.
- In closing, change will be there, might as well get used to it. Stop griping, start doing something about it, get it out and move on. Asking why? - get the whole story. Geographic Area Coordinating Group is doing some good things. Jeff Thanked SWA dispatchers for their support.

SWA IHC by Darin Fisher

Santa Fe IHC will be back this year, currently hiring.
- Heber IHC, change name to Black Mesa IHC.
- Ironwood IHC, new crew from Northwest Fire District in Tucson. Greg Smith is the Superintendent
- Granite Mountain IHC from Prescott was up and running last year.
- Rotation of crews – Dewey had made a suggestion 2 years ago. Current rotation is working well, it's a fair system.
- Operations Guide, Nationally – in process of revising, up this year and need to get signed off. Changes – keep up with times regarding different red card classifications and crew structure, tweaking it to make current, last update in 04 & 01.
- This time of year is stressful for the crew, working on recruitment, losing some crew members.
- Tinder box, last year, sending closest resource rather than keeping them home due to potential within home forest. Some crews had a lot more assignments than others.
- T-1 crews like driving. They've got all their gear, tools, etc. that they need to do their job.
- Question asked about crew taking UTV/ATV's on assignments. This is not standard equipment vs. chainsaw. Region 8, FS did not allow ATV/UTV's but BLM did allow it depends on the location of the assignment. The home dispatch office can add to ATV/UTV's to the crew roster, the equipment can always be removed from the roster. Build into master roster at home dispatch office, Kenan Jaycox of SWCC gave the go ahead to add to crew roster.

GUEST SPEAKER by Scott Russell

See power point presentation.

Scott talked about Stress Management. Learn to recognize your stress levels at work and/or recognize your co-workers stress habits as well, which will limit stress in the office. Preventive steps to help manage your stress (away from work) are hobbies, eating habits, exercise, etc.

EQUIPMENT / EaTIS by Rich Nieto and Anne Weiskircher

Power point presentation
- 3 year process, competition strategy for awarding EERAs 2/07.
- Acquisition side – develop a defensible competition strategy for awarding EERAs

- OIG did not like current EERA, not a valid procurement tool, best served by competition, pre-season agreement, incorporated best value
- EaTIS couldn't interface with ROSS
- VIPER, EERA award based on Best Value:
  - Still need to complete
  - New methodology was based on best value and interest of FAM
  - First step – Solicitation, technical capability
  - Nationwide - Solicitation template was initiated and used, needed consistency nationwide
  - Region 3 – acquisition unit did an outreach, plenty of notices given. Decision from acquisition and fire personnel to go with best value
  - Study done on engines and water tenders based on reasonable price determined by Contracting Officer according to Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR).
    - Pass/Fail Factors –
      - Meet the standards
      - Past performance - not done, none given - given a neutral rating to get on
      - Qualified personnel – support water tender operations, annual refresher training solicitation; Nationally S130 & S190, and annual refresher, very minimal in the Southwest
      - Minimum equipment standards
  - Establish a dispatch priority, advantage points
    - Criteria put in a database, weight factor
    - Don't have equal value on all equipment
    - Choosing by advantage – vendor C is best value, if vendor C comes home and another order comes in, send vendor C again due to best value. *lengthy discussions on this and disagreements from the audience*
    - Dispatch priority will change based on performance
      - Closest resource for initial attack, priority doesn't apply
      - Ask two questions when going into extended attack
        - Are you available?
        - Can you meet the date/time needed?
  - VIPER, high level scope, automates pre-season instruments throughout the AQM lifecycle; AQM system-three year plan; request incident host to do evaluations
  - Reviewed on a annual basis, can sign up for three years
  - Agency specific by Forest Service-
    - Incident only agreement
    - Unit level – inspection
    - Severity request – 75%
- Quality equipment, high standards, not quantity
- Inspections were never done
  - A cadre of 15 people from AZ Academy in Prescott went to Ruidoso, NM to come up with a standard

- Two inspections were done in Albuquerque, NM
  - First inspection – 60% were red tagged, didn't pass inspections, high failure rate. Response from some mechanics – "you're finally doing what you're supposed to be doing". One water tender didn't meet the GVW – 1200 lbs carrying 1700.
  - Second inspection – passed
  - Inspection good for 3 years, pre-season agreement

Day 3 - Thursday, January 31, 2008:

SWCC AIRCRAFT UPDATE by Yolanda Van Horn
See Power point presentation.

AVIATION SAFETY ACCIDENT REVIEW / AVIATION BUSINESS SYSTEM (ABS) by Aaron Schoolcraft
Presentation on power point
- Can't record all the notes or make power point available because of on-going investigations with nTSB.
- 11 accidents or incidents with potentials within 19 days.
- Aviation Business System (ABS), electronic payment document used by Forest Service from Form 122
- Data input into ABS, not dispatcher's responsibility, should be the manager's responsibility

FREQUENCIES / NIRSC by Mike Tuominen
- Initial Attack frequency, FM frequency – funnel to Mike Tuominen, SWCC can contact
- FAA 2-12 hours to engineer out an AM frequency, give CDO a call and follow up with a resource order with general information such as lat/long, incident name, etc.
- FM frequency for Initial Attack, same as last year, no changes
- AM for zones, no changes as well
- Initial Attack AM assigned on as needed basis, no reassignment of I/A frequency
- AM frequency for incident, will continue to be given to use for a large area
- Tactical frequency, shows in ROSS but it takes forever to get through and released, call CDO or Communication Coordinator
- Protocol from Ken Jaycox: one stop shopping to SWCC to NIRSC
- Initial phone call on emerging incident, call CDO or Communications Coordinator
- TFRs and Frequency – three exclusive use that can be used anywhere in the country but when the AM frequency is received, TFR frequency will change
- FAA – 123.975, supposed to be renewed annually but it hasn't been, in the process for ATB, encounter a problem, notify Mike

- Initial Attack will continue as is. Initial Attack frequency, air to ground, are national air tactics assigned to Dispatch from NIFC. Could be seeing new air to ground in the near future. May very well have own frequency for FS, DOI might be by Initial Attack or District. Frequency assigned to FS - belong to Forest Supervisor, could be assigned to DOI.
- DOI Frequency Coordinator from Washington is Chris Lewis
- Cache: Starter System – changed 3 to 2 in each cache, supplement with extra repeaters, continue with old standard. Command repeaters comes with links, aircraft link kit will have separate repeaters. Repeaters tone accessed, recommend tone accessed.

WILDLAND FIREFIGHTER FOUNDATION by Burk Minor
Compassion Spreads Like Wildfire presentation on power point.
Nicole Finch presented Burk Minor with proceeds from SWA Dispatcher's silent auction, donations and 52 club membership totaling $ 2116.00.

AIRSPACE COORDINATION by Julie Stewart
Presentation on power point
- TFRs & Notams online
- A203 online, hopefully
- October Fire Season in California
- World of fire suppression is changing
- Less aviation resources
- 10 year average: 78,251 fires for 5.86 million acres; 2007 had 85,705 fires for 9.32 million acres
- Working environment is TFR - Temporary Flight Restrictions enacted by FAA
- 91.137 (a) 2 Exceptions:
    o Aircraft is participating in relief activities under the direction of the official in charge on-scene of emergency response activities
    o Operating under Air Traffic Control, approved IFR flight plan,
    o Law Enforcement aircraft
    o VFR airport traffic – TFR does not close an airport
    o Accredited media under a flight plan approved by the FSS & ATC facility
- Airspace Coordinator, ordered as THSPs
- DINS – https://www.notams.faa.gov; realtime TFR

WILDCAD by Linda Lowe
Presentation on power point
- Wildcad training, 6 or 7 Dispatch Centers in Southwest; Training paid for by FS or BLM, send someone that hasn't had the training for backup
    o Peoria, AZ
    o Lincoln, CO
    o Boise, ID
    o Reno, NV
- Go online with Wildcad – 14 Dispatch Centers – 14 sites install
    o Learning how to database:

- - Lakewood, CO – 2/05-06/08
    - Peoria, AZ – 2/20-21/08
  - o GIS on wildcad – gathering the data to do the mapping
    - Colorado – 3/11-12/08
    - Arizona – 3/18-19/08
- February 12, 2007 – Annual Meeting in Minden, NV – SW Coordinator is Tami Buchanan from Arizona Interagency Dispatch Center
- Wildcad support website: www.wildcadsupport.net, to access systems download
- Snapserver:
  - o Wilder – Google Earth and Wildcad – not real time at this time
  - o Wildearth – download after February 12th
  - o Lost connectivity to RAWS through WIMS program – BLM had a URL file that was changed
- National Directive: Three types of wildfire –
  - o Wildfire (WF)
  - o Prescribed Burn (RX)
  - o Wildland Fire Use (WFU)
- AFF / Wildcad Interface – Google Earth

IQCS NOMINATION WORKFLOW by Jerome MacDonald
See power point presentation.
IQCS Nomination process will begin April 2008.
The following 3 classes are currently set up in IQCS to begin the nomination process.

S-390, IQCS session # 0164
S-339, IQCS session # 0046
S-258, IQCS session # 0009

End of 2008 Workshop!